Europe: 1500-1750

Social and Economic Life:

Bourgeoisie:

City-growth increased
Bourgeoisie – wealthy = manufacturing, finance, trade (especially trade in grain)
Example: Amsterdam (built on trade and finance) – 17th Century

Bourgeoisie – created relationships with monarchs
Family and ethnic networks – trade throughout world

Merchants and governments – formed partnerships – joint-stock companies and stock exchanges

Governments improved European transportation and infrastructure

Anglo-Dutch Wars (17th Century) – showing growing importance and trade on international scale

Bourgeoisie status increased – owning more land – married nobility or purchased titles of nobility

Peasants and Laborers:

Serfdom decreased in Western Europe
Serfdom increased in Eastern Europe

African slaves in Americas – Increased European economy
Average person status decreased in Western Europe between 1500-1700.

New World crops helped Western European peasants avoid starvation:
Potatoes and corn

Severe deforestation in Europe (Late 17th and 18th Centuries)
Reasons: Heating, Cooking, Construction, shipbuilding, industry

Wood construction cost increased = result – coal consumption increased
Some efforts for conservation and tree planting
Reason – need wood for navy

Severe effects on poor – used to rely on free forests for wood, materials, nuts & berries, wild game
Urban poor:
“deserving poor” – permanent residents
“unworthy poor” – migrants, peddlers, beggars, criminals

Women and Family:
Women’s status and work – closely tied with husband’s work
Common people married later in life
Reason: young men in apprenticeship programs
Young women needed to work to earn dowries

Bourgeoisie: married later too
Reason: men needed to finish education
Need to become independent of parents
Result: kept the birth rate low

Education and schools were emphasized
Most schools, professions, guilds banned women

Politics:
State:

1516-1519: Charles of Burgundy (Charles Martin)
(Austrian-Hapsburg Family)
Inherited Castile and Aragon empires, Austrian-Hapsburg Empire, position of Holy
Roman Emperor
Defeated Ottoman Turks at Vienna (1529)
Could not unify all of his territory

German Princes rebelled against Charles of Burgundy
↓
Lutheran
↓
French-speaking Catholic

Seized Church lands
↓
German Wars of Religion

Charles of Burgundy abdicated his throne

Spain – now controlled by Philip (Charles’s son)
Holy Roman Empire – now controlled by Ferdinand (Charles’s son)

Rulers:
Spain, France, England – all tried to unite their own countries
Religion:
Spain and France defended successfully the Roman Catholic Religion over Protestantism
↓
State-sponsored

Henry VIII of England - declared himself leader of the Church of England (1536)
(Ruled 1509-1547)
Wanted to change marriage laws

Later, Calvinists wanted to purify Anglican Church and monarchs resisted

Monarchies:
England – conflict between King and Parliament – Civil War – Puritan Republic – Oliver Cromwell
Bloodless revolution against King James II (Roman Catholic) – Glorious Revolution (1688)
Successors: William and Mary (Protestant)
Bill of Rights: limited the power of the crown

France:
Kings had resisted Estates-General – kept absolutist style of government

King Louis XIV – forced nobility to attend court in Versailles
Finance minister – Colbert – efficient tax system = Increased economy

Warfare and Diplomacy:
Constant warfare and military revolution

Armies = canon, muskets, common foot soldiers
Most countries in Europe had standing armies (except England – navy)
New command structures, signals, marching drills
Naval technology – improvements – warships, multiple tiers of canons, four-wheeled canon carriages – reload faster

English Royal Navy defeated Spanish Catholic Armada (1588)
-Ended Spanish Empire’s dominance
Led to increase in France’s military power in Continental Europe

War of Spanish Succession (1701-1714)
England’s allies – Austria and Prussia
England able to prevent France’s House of Bourbon from unifying France and Spain and taking over Spanish throne
After Great Northern War (1700-1721), Russia became a major power

France, Great Britain, Austria, and Russia: created a balance of power – prevented any one power from becoming too strong for about two centuries

European revenue needed to increase because of armies and wars
- Profitable alliances with commercial elites

Spanish hurt themselves
Reason: drove out Moslems, Jews, and Protestants

The Netherlands became a commercial power
United Provinces of The Free Netherlands
Craftspeople, manufacturing, commercial networks (especially in Holland)
Commercial networks just as effective as owning colonies
Amsterdam – finance and shipping

After 1650, England’s Navy broke Dutch dominance
Reason: Collected taxes and created central bank in England

France’s government:
tax collection, protective tariffs, transportation networks increased
Although – direct taxation, taxing nobles’ land and low-cost loans did not happen

Prussia became a powerful nation
Reason: many resources were applied to the military in building a strong army

French scholar Loys Le Roy (1575)
Felt printing press, marine compass, and canons helped Europe enter the Golden Age
Europe caught up to the Middle East – all from the printing press

Islam refused to allow Arab works about their lands to be printed in Europe